

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-4, 8-16, and 26-63 are presently active; Claims 2, 5-7, and 23-25 were canceled previously without prejudice; Claims 17-22 have been withdrawn from consideration; and Claims 1 and 26 have been presently amended.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3-4, 8-16, and 26-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §1112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 3-4, 10, 5-16, 26-28, 31, and 36-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Inoue et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,218,206) in view of Hagihara et al (U.S. Pat. Publ. No. 2003/10047812). Claims 38-63 were indicated as being allowed.

Firstly, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowance for Claims 38-63.

Secondly, the changes presented here are believed to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection.

Thirdly, similar to that discussed with Examiner Nguyen on related case U.S. Serial No. 11/106,439, the specification shows in Figure 12 a structure in which precipitates extend through a concentrated alloy material (i.e., the depicted Ni concentrated alloy layer in Figure 12) existing at the contact interface between the metal oxide 5 and the aluminum alloy film 29. Such a structure as described in one aspect of the present invention on pages 24-27 of the specification is made by preferential etching of aluminum in the aluminum alloy prior to subsequent ITO deposition. The structure of the precipitate extending through the concentrated alloy metallic material and the presence of the concentrated alloy material at the contact interface permit electrical current to pass through the contact interface with low resistance.

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Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 26 presently are definite, and patentably define over Inoue et al and Hagihara et al.

Moreover, the examiner's attention is directed to the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 7, 2005. It is requested that the filed PTO 1449 form be initialed and returned after consideration of the references.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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